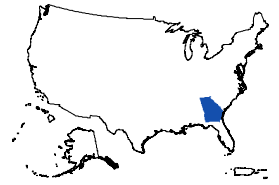


# 2000 Forestry Incentives Program



## Customer Focus—

Raleigh Warren, retired teacher and educator, purchased his farm while he was still teaching and raising a family. The family grew vegetables during the summer to supplement their income. Because of his age and declining health, the land was idle several years until he decided to plant trees to provide something for future generations. Attempts to establish trees during two consecutive years resulted in failures. Mr. Warren became discouraged after expending so much toward the failed tree planting. He learned about the possibility of FIP assistance through an article in the Baxley News Banner.

Frank Miles, supervisor with the Altamaha Soil and Water Conservation District, said, "Mr. Warren was able to get approval of his request for assistance because it met priorities set through a locally led process." Only a limited amount of FIP funds is available each year, so requests for assistance that will result in converting open lands to timber with minimum of site preparation are given priority.

Following approval, Mr. Warren planted slash pine, leaving the few surviving longleaf from his earlier attempts. He said that the financial assistance received was not the only factor contributing to the success of his project. The technical assistance from NRCS and the Georgia Forestry Commission helped him overcome some mistakes he made in his previous attempts to establish trees on his land.

Mr. Warren said, "I probably won't get any financial benefit from the trees during my lifetime, but my reward is spending time with my grandchildren watching the trees grow, and knowing that I have played a small role in providing something for the future generations to use and enjoy."

## Georgia Summary

### Overview

The Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) is a popular program in Georgia. Landowners appreciate the straightforward approach in carrying out the program and simplicity of application and approval. NRCS, the Georgia Forestry Commission, and local conservation districts work exceedingly well together to carry out the program throughout the state with few problems encountered during the course of the year. Over 800 landowners applied for funding on a requested 30,000 acres of land. Estimated funding needs for the year exceeded \$2 million.

### Accomplishments

A total of 550 contracts were approved for the year on almost 12,000 acres. Total funds obligated under these contracts exceeded \$697,000. Most of these contracts were for establishment of loblolly and slash pine for timber production. Other compatible uses and benefits were considered and incorporated while providing technical assistance in planning and application. Landowners participating in the program planted 11,944 acres in the 1999-2000 planting season, resulting in nearly 8 million trees being planted.

### Outlook

Land use has changed drastically in Georgia in the last several years. Because of extreme fluctuations in weather conditions, much of the cropland is being converted from dryland crops to irrigation. Areas that are not compatible or practical to irrigate are being converted to other land uses. Trees are a viable option. Landowners are willing to consider this alternative if financial incentives are available. Timber products are increasingly used in the state because of the growing population. Keeping the supply up with future demands is essential to the state's economy. Current needs are resulting in many acres of private forest land being harvested with a substantial percentage not being reforested because of the high initial investment and lack of short-term returns. Additional FIP funds would play a large role in meeting these needs in the state.

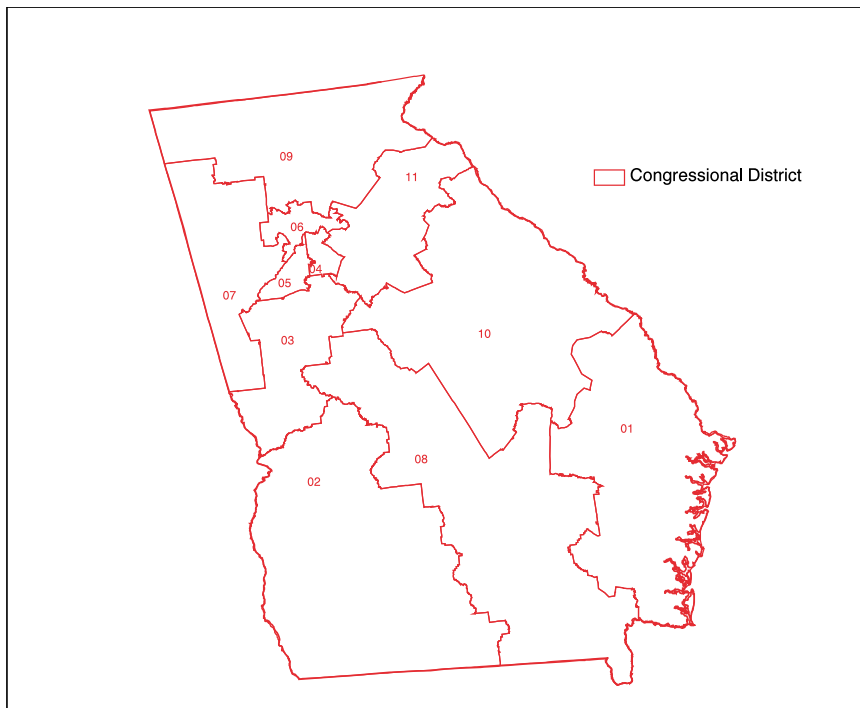
### State Contact

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*Mr. Raleigh Warren of Appling County is grateful for the assistance he received through FIP to plant trees on his small farm.*

## Georgia Congressional Districts



## Georgia FIP Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$85,473	53	\$358,374	296
District 2	115,968	71	500,460	370
District 3	21,787	13	91,707	76
District 4	0	0	0	0
District 5	2800	1	4,200	3
District 6	0	0	0	0
District 7	68,166	36	217,245	146
District 8	174,148	92	550,087	410
District 9	49,916	24	133,880	98
District 10	147,507	69	534,796	346
District 11	31,768	20	127,385	114
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$697,533</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>\$2,518,133</b>	<b>1,859</b>

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